

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7428

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, AL, IT, (SOTER, THOMAS) (LITSIKAS, JAMES)

SUBJ: AMCITS IN ALBANIA - THOMAS SOTER, JAMES LITSIKAS

FOR SCA AND EUR/EE

REF: A. STATE 99836; B. ROME 1906

1. EMBASSY HAS SENT NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THOMAS SOTER. SUBSEQUENTLY, EMBOFF REAISED MATTER WITH CHIEF OF BALKAN DESK AT MFA (FRANCHETTI). EMBOFF REQUESTED FRANCHETTI TO BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AT TIRANA TELEGRAPHICALLY IF POSSIBLE, ASKING AT THE SAME TIME WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR HAS SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING ANY ALBANIAN RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON JAMES LITSIKAS.

2. FRANCHETTI REITERATED POINT MADE TO US BY AMBASSADOR FERRARA (REPORTED REFTEL B) TO THE EFFECT THAT THE ALBANIANS FAIL TO RESPOND TO ITALIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON ITALIAN CITIZENS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY IN ALBANIA. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ITALIANS STILL CAN NEITHER GAIN CONSULAR ACCESS TO OR INFORMATION ON ONE OF THEIR CITIZENS CURRENTLY SERVING A LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE IN ALBANIA. NEVERTHELESS, FRANCHETTI PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND GET BACK TO US WHEN HE HEARS FROM TIRANA.

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3. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT ITALIAN ROUTE IS LIKELY

TO PROVE UNPRODUCTIVE AND THAT RECOURSE TO ALBANIAN-AMERICAN
ORGANIZATION OFFERS BETTER CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. ALTERNATIVELY
PRIVATE APPROACH BY RELATIVES OF MISSING INDIVIDUALS TO ALBANIAN
MISSION TO THE UN WOULD ALSO SEEM BETTER WAY OF PURSUING
MATTER THAN GOING THROUGH ITALIANS WHO, AS DEPARTMENT IS
AWARE, DO NOT OFFICIALLY REPRESENT OUR INTERESTS IN ALBANIA.
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